

REMARKS

After entry of the amendment, claims 1-9 and 15-20 remain pending.

Claims 1-6, 9, 15-16 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Great Britain Patent Specification Number 1,499,807 to Ring.

Claims 7, 8 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ring in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,364,095 to Easton et al.

The rejection of claims 1-9 and 15-20 is respectfully traversed.

Rejection of the Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) Over Ring, and Ring and Easton

In section number 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 9, 15-16 and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ring.

In view of the amendments made to the claims, support for which is found at least at page 6, lines 2-8, and originally filed claim 12, Applicants submit that Ring does not disclose or suggest an orthotic strut component having an internal core that includes a rolled-up, substantially uncured sheet of pre-impregnated fibre and plastics composite material in which the fibres of the sheet are substantially unidirectional and running lengthwise of the tube, wherein the tube is at least 300mm in length and has an internal cross section which is no more than Kc^2 (where c is the internal circumference of the tube, and K is a number less than or equal to 0.06).

With regard to Claims 7, 8 and 17, U.S. Patent No. 5,364,095 to Easton et al. (Easton) does not compensate for the deficiencies of Ring. For example, Applicants submit that Easton does not disclose or suggest at least a rolled-up and cured sheet of pre-impregnated fibre and plastics composite material within the tube, the fibres of the sheet being substantially unidirectional and running lengthwise of the tube, particularly in combination with the other elements recited in the claim.

Further, with regard to claims 7 and 17, Easton does not teach or suggest, let alone disclose, "an inner kernel made of a heat-activated expansion agent extending lengthwise through the strut surrounded by the said plastics and fibre composite material." Instead, column 3, lines 9-22 disclose a thermally setting resin, or thermoplastic resin, merely as part of a plastics and fibre composite material or matrix. Expansion of the composite material is performed by means of an expandable mandrel (column 3, line 11).

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Response dated January 9, 2006
Reply to Office Action dated September 8, 2005

In view of the foregoing, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required for entry of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment to deposit account no. 08-0219.

In the event that an extension of time is required, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to deposit account no. 08-0219.

Respectfully submitted,

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